

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.

FRIDAY - - - - - JUNE 2.

ISLAND IMPORTS.

The joint committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association to bring to the attention of Island importers the matter of the importance of entering imports through the Island ports direct, instead of having them entered at mainland custom houses and transshipping thence, has issued a circular letter to various large importers upon the subject. There has been, in the past, perhaps a thought too little attention given to this kind of thing by the mercantile community of the Territory. Since annexation, it is possible Island merchants have argued that so long as imports and exports were made through American ports, it does not make a great deal of difference which port is used. And so far as the revenue is concerned, of course it does not.

But there is more than revenue at stake here. The duty on imports goes to the United States government, and must continue to go to the United States government in any event. The loss of revenue is part of the price Hawaii paid for annexation. But there is the element of local pride and the growth of the Island ports, and this growth is largely in the hands of Island importers. For, if they import direct, the Island ports at once rise in importance with relation to the world's commerce, and as the Island ports rise in importance, of course it becomes more and more easy to attract the attention of Congress to the needs of such ports in the matter of modern improvements in aid of commerce. A port that has a large import and export commerce is not lightly considered, either in Congress or in commercial centers. Trade follows the flag, but the flag also follows trade—and sees that trade has a smooth channel to flow in. And the port that has a large commerce attracts more, naturally, for men engaged in commerce are drawn to a place where things are doing, and capital follows the men in commerce, and new enterprises are born, and the whole life of the port is made stronger and its prosperity increased in growing ratio.

And because all this is true, it is to be hoped that the circular letter of the commercial bodies will bear fruit, and that the Island importers will take to heart all that the letter contains.

THE ORGANIC LAW.

The Bar Association did right in informing Delegate Kuhio that it had no amendments to the Organic Act of Hawaii to suggest or advise. The legal fraternity is in a position to realize how necessary it is to permit the foundation law of the Territory to remain undisturbed. The Organic Act is our local constitution. It moors our other laws and is the anchorage of public institutions. Apparently the Delegate thinks that it ought to be meddled with on general principles, as the constitution of the monarchy was, but that is far from being the part of wisdom. Kuhio would have done well to work against the surreptitious amendment which was made last winter, doubling the expense of litigation here by providing for appeals from the Territorial to the Federal Supreme Court; and we trust that the passage of that unfit amendment will prompt him to watch out next session lest private interests, operating through riders to appropriation bills, shall again drive wedges of their own into the organic law.

Capt. Sam Johnson and E. R. Adams were this morning seen driving around town in Johnson's rig, talking quite chummily.—Bulletin.

And the rig they drove is the same one that E. M. Watson, a leading Democrat, borrowed by mistake one evening from in front of the Hawaiian Hotel and took out toward the sixth precinct of the Fourth. There's dirty politics being done somewhere, mind that!

To say that "business demands the county law" about squares the circle of absurdity. What business demands is economical government, less grafting and low taxes. Talk to the contrary is made by people who are forever surrendering vital things to the worst elements in the community for the sake of keeping them quiet and obedient at the polls. The Advertiser's challenge to produce ten responsible taxpayers of Oahu, not connected with politics, who want a county law, has never been met and it still stands.

It is by no means certain that the Gromoboi is afloat though if she went down she is more likely to have been sunk by one of the Russian mines about the harbor entrance than by any Japanese contrivance. No report has ever been made of the appearance of Japanese mine-ships off Vladivostok where, for the last few months, the garrison and the local squadron have been keenly vigilant.

The conning tower of a man-of-war has usually been regarded as a death-trap. No one can get into a small cylinder and survive the concussion which a big shell makes in striking it. Usually an admiral directs a battle from the bridge. It was Voelkersam's anxiety to get behind something in the battle that cost him his life.

Months ago the Japanese lost the battleship Yashima, but they did not let the facts be known until yesterday. Probably no country except Russia could have concealed such a loss for so long a period. The circumstances show how easily Japan can blind the press and keep her own counsel.

The Russian man-of-war Izumrud, which escaped from the Japanese fleet by blowing herself up, is a small protected cruiser of the Novik class and not a battleship, as stated in an evening paper yesterday.

Kuropatkin has retired to his country residence. If Linevitch has one he had better instruct the servants to dust the furniture and get in a supply of coal. The taste for small farming is coming his way.

Russia's fourth squadron, which was just about to start east, has changed its course due west, and probably won't stop until it gets into shallow water up some creek.

When the brilliant virtues of the Mikado make a short circuit with the spirits of the imperial ancestors, it is time for the average outsider to take to the woods.

If Russia means to have a revolution, now is a good time to begin it. The demoralization of the Bureaucrats is the chance of the Socialists.

The buried gold near Diamond Head is probably the remnant of the Hearst treasure which Beverly Kidd interred last fall.

Those Russians who were going to take their holiday dinners in Japan are nearly all there now, either too late or too early.

Russia has one fleet left, that in the Black Sea, and is profoundly thankful that nobody can get at it but the Turks.

If King Alfonso does much traveling in Europe he won't be able to get any more insurance.

The suicide of the Czar is not least among the news possibilities of the next few days.

Brown is ready to knife the Governor personally and draw the knife out politically.

Those terrible Cossacks are among the also rans of Russia's Asiatic campaign.

About the only Russian left with a good military record is Sam Johnson.

Ikons ought to be cheap in the Russian market these days.

MIXED MAXIMS.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle.]
"One swallow does not make a summer"—no, nor a meal.
"Where's there's a will there's a way"—usually the wrong one.
"Forbidden fruit is sweet"—but you're very apt to choke on the seeds.
"Every cloud has a silver lining"—but usually it is made of German silver.

"Tis better to give than to receive"—this holds good even to a blow.

"A squeaking door hangs a long time"—and no one ever thinks to oil it.

"Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow"—the cook will go on a strike.

"Virtue is its own reward"—at least it is the only apparent one up to date.

"If at first you don't succeed, try again"—even if you have to impress it with a club.

"The darkest hour is just before dawn"—at least it seems darker when you are trying to find the keyhole.

"It is a long lane that has no turn"—and sometimes it does not turn a hair; it just ends abruptly at a precipice.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath"—but it is just as well to be prepared and keep your hand near your pistol pocket.

"A good conscience makes a soft pillow"—as does also the knowledge that you have to-morrow's rent money.

"Love laughs at locksmiths"—but sometimes it laughs on the other side of its mouth, and has a mighty hard time in the divorce court, trying to find a skeleton key that works as easily as that love lock did.

HAPPY JOHNNY BURNS.

They wuz a man in Sundry-school last Sunday said 'at he wished we would all be good and grow like Moses used to be. But I don't care so much for that, as others mebbe does—'cause he wuz galled-uz.

My maw she never wants to let me play with Johnny, fer she says his folks is ignerunt and ain't the style fer her. And every time she scolds me when I do what Johnny does—I wish he wuz my waist and I could have his galled-uz.

My paw's almost the richest man they are in this here town. 'Cause we live in a big white house and Johnny he lives down Beside the railroad track—I wish 'at I lived where he does. 'Cause nearly all the boys down there are wearin' galled-uz.

I wish my paw'd git poor some day, and then we'd haft to go And live down by the track and not be all stuck up, you know. Then mebbe maw'd let me be dressed the way 'at Johnny wuz. And he'd be friendly with me, 'cause I'd have on galled-uz. —S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald.

A woman acquires logic when she has a checkbook of her own.

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